THEEVES FALLING OVT,

True men come by their Goods:

OR,

The Belman wanted a Clapper.

Speale of more Villanies rung out: The ſound being Muſicall to all Gentlemen, Lawyers, Farmers and all ſorts of people that come vp to the Tearme: Shewing that the Villanies of lewd Women excell thoſe of Men.

By Robert Greene.

Goe not by me, but Buy me, and get by mee.

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BIBLIOTHECA · BODLEIANA

TO ALL GENTLE-

Men, Merchants, Apprentiſes, and Country-
Farmers health.

NEwes and greene buſhes at Tauernes new ſet vp; euery man hath his penny to ſpend at a Pint in the one, and euery man his eare open, to receiue the ſound of the other. It is the language which at firſt meetings is vſed in all countryes, What newes? In Court, tis the mornings ſalutations, and Noones table-talke; by Night it is ſtale. In City tis more common, then What do you lacke? And in the Country whilſtling at Plough is not of greater Antiquity. Walke the middle of Pauls, and Gentlemens teeth walke not faſter at Ordinaries, then there a whole day together, about inquiry after Newes.

Newes then being a Fiſh that's caught euery day, and yet a Meate for euery mans Table; I think it not amiſſe to inuite all men to a Feaſt of ſuch Newes, as haue of late come in ſhoales into my net. I will not hold a Bird in a Cage to ſing ſtrange notes to my ſelfe, but let her forth to delight others: And albeit (about ſome two or three yeares paſt) the vgly faces of diuers damned abuſes, were ſet naked vpon euery Poſt, their Vizards being flaid off, both by Lanthorne and Candle-

light, *and by the* Belman of London: *Yet Villany when it runnes to ſeede, being of all other graines the moſt fruitfull and luxuriant, the Candle-light was burnt to a ſnuffe, and the* Belman *faſt aſleepe, before theſe Monſters which now are hatcht forth, creeped out of their Dennes.*

In Weſtminſter, *the* Strand, Holborne, *and the chiefe places of reſorts about* London, *doe they euery day build their neſts, euery houre fledge; and in tearme time eſpecially flutter they abroad in flocks: You ſhall know them by their feathers. And becauſe for the moſt part, they flye in paires, (a Cock and a Henne together) Behold a couple newly alighted on the Pearch; a* Hee-Foyſt *and a* Shee-Foyſt: *what they chirrup out, their owne voyces can beſt deliuer; and therefore liſten to them. Suppoſe you heare the firſt ſet-out a throat thus.*

Farewell.

Robert Greene.

A Dif-

A DISPVTATION

Betweene a Hee-Foyſt, and a Shee-Foyſt,
Stephen and Kate.

Stephen.

FAire Kate, well met, what Newes about your Weſtminſter building, that you looke ſo blith, your cherry Cheekes diſcouer your good fare; and your braue apparell betrayes a fat purſe: is Fortune now alate growne ſo fauourable to Foyſtes, that your Huſband hath lighted on ſome large purchaſe? or haue your ſmooth lookes linkt in ſome yong Nouice, to ſweat for a fauour, all the Byte in his Bounge, and to leaue himſelfe as many Crownes as thou haſt good conditions, and then he ſhall be one of Pierce-Penileſſe fraternity? How is it ſweete Wench, goes the world on wheeles, that you tread ſo daintily on your typ-toes?

Kate, Why Stephen, are you pleaſant or peeuiſh, that you quip with ſuch briſke girdes? thinke you a quatterne winde cannot make a quick ſayle, that eaſie lifts cannot make heauy burthens? that women haue not wiles to compaſſe crownes as well as men? yes, and more, for though they bee not ſo ſtrong in the fiſts, they bee more ripe in their wits: and tis by wit that I liue and will liue, in deſpight of that peeuiſh Scholler, that thought with his conny-catching bookes to haue crost bit our Trade. Doeſt thou maruell to ſee

me thus briſke? faire Wenches cannot want fauours, while the world is ſo full of amorous fooles: where can ſuch Girls as my ſelfe bee blemiſht with a three-bare coat, as long as Country Farmers haue full Purſes, and wanton Citizens pockets full of pence?

Steph. Truth, if fortune ſo fauour thy Husband, that hee be neither ſmoakt nor cloyed: for I am ſure all thy bravery comes by Nipping, Foyſting, and Lifting.

Kate. In faith ſir no: did I get no more by mine owne wit, then I reape by his purchaſe, I might both goe bare and pennileſſe the whole yeere; but mine eyes are ſtaules, and my hands lime-twigges (elſe were I not worthy the name of a Shee-Conny-catcher) Cyrces had neuer more Charmes, Calipſo more Inchantments, the Syrens more ſubtill tunes, then I haue crafty ſlights to inueigle a Conny, and fetch in a Country Farmer. Stephen, beleeue mee, you men are but fooles, your gettings are vncertaine, and yet you ſtill fiſh for the Gallowes: though by ſome great chance you light vpon a good bounty, yet you faſt a great while after; whereas we mad Wenches haue our Tenants (for ſo I call euery ſimple Letcher and amorous Foy) as well out of Tearme as in Tearme: to bring vs our Rents: alas, were not my wits, and my wanton prankes more profitable then my husbands foyſting, we might often goe to bed ſupperleſſe for want of ſurfeting: and yet I dare ſweare, my husband gets a hundreth pounds a yeare by bounty.

Simple country Yearmers are counted harlots tenants

Steph. Why Kate, are you growne ſo ſtiffe, to thinke, that your faire lookes can get as much as our nimble fingers: or that your ſacking can gaine as much as our foyſting? no, no, Kate, you are two Bowes downe the winde: our foyſt will get more then twenty the proudeſt Wenches in all London.

Kate. Lie a little further, and giue mee ſome rowme: what Stephen, your tongue is too lauiſh, all ſtands vpon proofe: and ſith I haue leaſure, and you no great buſineſſe, as being now when Paules is ſhut vp, and all purchaſes and Con-

nies

nies in their Burrowes, let vs to the Tauerne, and take a roome to our selues, and there for the price of our Suppers, I will proone that women (I meane of our faculty, traffick, or as base knaues tearme vs, Strumpets) are more subtil, more dangerous in the common wealth, and more full of wiles to get crownes, then the cunningest Foyst, Nip, List Prigs, or whatsoeuer that liues at this day.

Steph. Content, but who shall be moderater in our controuersies, sith in disputing pro & contra, betwixt our selues, it is but your yea, and my nay, and so neither of vs will yeild to others victories?

Kate, Trust me Steph. I am so assured of the conquest, offering so in the strength of mine owne arguments, that when I haue reasoned, I will referre it to your iudgement and censure.

Steph. And trust me, as I am an honest man, I will bee indifferent.

Kate. O sweare not so deepely: but let me first heare what you can say for your selfe?

Steph. What? why more Kate, then can bee painted out in a great volume; but briefely this: I needs not describe the lawes of villainy, because the Bel-man hath so amply pend them downe in the first part of Conny-catching, that though I be one of the faculty, yet I cannot discouer more then hee hath laid open.

Therefore, first to the Gentleman Foyst, I pray you what finer quality? what art is more excellent, either to try the ripenesse of the wit, or the agility of the hand, then that for him that will be master of his trade, must passe the prowdest Iuggler aliue, the points of Leger de maine? he must haue an eye to spye the Boung or Purse, and then a heart to dare to attempt it: for this by the way, hee that feares the gallowes, shall neuer bee good Thiefe while hee liues, hee must as the Cat watch for a Mouse, and walke Paules, Westminster, the Exchange, and such common haunted places, and there haue a curious eye to the person, whether hee bee Gentleman,

Cutpurses in their colours

man, Citizen or Farmer, and note, either where his Boung lies, whether in his Hose, or Pockets, and then dog the party into a presse, where his Traule with heaning and shouing shall so molest him, that he shall not feele when we strip him of his Boung, although it bee neuer so fast or cunningly couched about him: what poore Farmer almost can come to pleade his case at the Barre, to attend vpon his Lawyers at the Bench, but loke he neuer so narrowly to it, we haue his Purse, wherein sometime there is fat purchase, twenty or thirty pounds; and I pray you, how long would one of your Traffickes be earning so much with your Chamber worker Besides, in Faires and Markets, and in the Circuits after Iudges, what infinite mony is gotten from honest meaning men, that eyther busie about their necessary affaires, or carelesly loking to their crowns, light amongst vs that be Foists: tush we dissemble in show, we goe so neate in apparell, so orderly in outward appearance, some like Lawyers Clarkes, others like Seruing-men, that attended there about their Masters businesse, that we are hardly smoakt, bestowing vpon all men with kind courtesies and faire words, and yet hauing so warily watchfull, that a good Purse cannot be put vp in a Faire, but woe sigh if we share it not amongst vs: and though the Bookes of Conny-catching hath somewhat hindred vs, and brought many braue Foysts to the Halter, yet some of our Country Farmers, nay of our Gentlemen and Citizens, are so carelesse in a throng of people, that they shew vs the Prey, and so draw on a thiefe, and bequeath vs their Purses whether we will or no: for who loues wine so ill, that he will not eate Grapes if they fall into his mouth? and why is so base, that if he see a Pocket faire before him, will not foyst in if he may, or if foysting will not serue, vse his knife and nip, for although there be some Foysts, that will not vse their knives, yet I hold him not a perfect workman or master of his mistery, that will not cut a Purse as well as foyst a Pocket, and hazard any limbe for so sweete againe as gold: how answere you mee this briefe obiection Kate? can

Two shapes

can you compare with either our cunning to get our gains in purchase?

Kate. And haue you no stronger arguments, good man Stephen, to argue your excellency in villainy but this? then in faith put vp your pipes, and giue me leaue to speake: your chop-logicke hath no great subtilty: for simply you reason of foysting, and appropriate that to your selues, to you men I meane, as though there were not women Foysts & Nips as neate in that trade as you, of as good an eye, as fine and nimble a hand, and of as resolute a heart: yes Stephen, and your good mistresses in that mistery; for wee without like suspition can passe in your walkes vnder the colour of simplicity to Westminster, with a paper in our hand, as if we were distressed women, that had some supplication to put vp to the Iudges, or some bill of information to deliuer to our Lawyers, when surely we shuffle in for a Bung as well as the best of you all, yea, as your selfe Stephen, though you bee called King of Cutpurses; for though they smoake you, they will hardly mistrust vs, and suppose our stomack stand against it to foyst, yet who can better play the Saule or the shadow then we, for in a thrust or throng if wee shoue hard, who is he that will not fauour a woman, and in giuing place to vs, giue you free passage for his Purse. Againe, in the Market, when euery wife hath almost her hand on her bung, and that they cry, beware the Cutpurses and Conny-catchers, then I as fast as the best with my Hand-Basket, as mannerly, as if I were to buy great store of Butter and Egs for prouision of my house, doe exclaime against them with my hand on my Purse, and say, the world is so bad, when a woman cannot walke safely to Market, for feare of these villanous Cutpurses, when as the first Bung I come to, I either nip or foyst, or else Saule another, while he hath stricken, dispatcht and gone.

The Shee-Diuell worst.

Women foists & Boies, most dangerous in Faires and Markets.

Now, I pray you, gentle sir, wherein are wee inferiour to you in foysting? and yet this is nothing to the purpose. For it is one of our most simple shifts: but yet, I pray you, what

thinke you when a Farmer, Gentleman, or Citizen, come to the Taratine, perhaps he is wary of his Purse, and watch him neuer so warily, yet hee will neuer bee brought to the blow, is it not possible for vs to pinch him ere hee passe? Yes that is most chary of his crownes abroad, and will cry, Ware the Conny-catchers, will not bee afraid to drinke a pint of wine with a pretty Wench, and perhaps go to a trugging house to ferry one out for his purpose, then with what cunning we can fade the simple Fopp, with what faire words, sweete kisses, fained sighs, as if at that instant wee fell in loue with him that we neuer saw before: If we meet him in the Eueningin the streete, if the Farmer, or other whatsoeuer, be not so forward as to motion some courtesie to vs, we straight insinuate into his company, and claime acquaintance of him by some meanes or other, and if his mind be set for lust, and the Diuell driue him on to match himselfe with some dishonest wanton, then let him looke to his Purse; for if he do but kisse me in the street, Ile haue his Purse for a farewell, although hee neuer commit any other act at all. I speake not this onely by my selfe Stephen, for there bee a hundred in London more cunning then my selfe in Conny-catching. But if hee come into a house, then let our trade alone to verse vpon him, for first we faine our selues hungry, for the benefite of the house, although our bellies were neuer so full, and no doubt the Pander or Bawde, shee comes forth like a sober Matron, and sets store of Cates on the Table, and then I fall a board on them, and though I can eate little, yet I make hauock of all, and let him bee sure euery dish is well sauced, for he shall pay for a Pippin pie that cost in the Market foure pence, at one of the Trugging houses, eight pence: tush, what is dainty if it be not deare bought? & yet hee must come off for crownes besides: and when I see him draw to his Purse, I note the putting vp of it well, and ere we part, the world goes hard if I foyst him not of all that he hath: and then suppose the worst that he misse it, am I so simply acquainted, or badly prouided, that I haue not a friend,

A Trull with a Gull.

Tricks of Bawdes.

friend, which with a few terrible Oathes and countenance set, as if hee were the proudest Boulduo, that euer bare armes in the Low country warres, will face him quite out of his money, and make him walke like a Woodcocke homeward by weeping Crosse, and so buy repentance with all the crownes in his Purse. How say you to this Stephen, whether are women Foists inferiour to you in ordinary cozenage or no?

Steph. Excellently well reasoned, thou hast told me wonders: but wench, though you be wily and strike often, your blowes are not so big as ours.

Kate. Oh but note the subiect of our disputation, and that is this, which are more subtil and dangerous in the Common wealth, and to that I argue.

Steph. I and beshrow me, but you reason quaintly; yet will I prooue your wits are not so ripe as ours, nor so ready to reach into the subtilties of kinde cozenage, and though you appropriate to your selfe the excellency of Conny-catching, and that you doe it with more Art then we men doe, because of your painted flatteries and sugred words, that you flourish rethorically, like nets to catch fooles, yet will I manifest with a merry instance, a feate done by a Foyst, that exceeded any that euer was done by any mad Wench in England.

A pleasant Tale of a Country Farmer, that tooke it in scorne to haue his Purse cut or drawne from him, and how a Foyst serued him.

IT was told me of a truth, that not long since here in London, there lay a country Farmer, with diuers of his neighbours about law matters, amongst whom, one of them going to Westminster-hall, was by a Foyst stript of all the pence in his purse, and comming home, made great complaint of his misfortune, some lamented his losse, and others exclaimed against the Cutpurses, but this Farmer

hee laught loudly at the matter, and said, such fooles as could not keepe their Purses no surer, were well serued; and for my part, quoth hee, I so much scorne the Cutpurses, that I would thanke him heartily that would take paines to Foyst mine: well sayes his neighbour, then you may thanke me, sith my harmes learne you to beware, but if it be true, that many things fall out betweene the cup and the lip, you know not what hands Fortune may light in your owne lap; tush, quoth the Farmer, heers forty pounds in this Purse in gold, the proudest Cutpurse in England win it and weare it; thus hee boasted. There stood a subtill Foyst by, and heard all, smiling to himselfe at the folly of the proud Farmer, and vowed to haue his Purse, or venture his neck for it, and so went home, and bewrayed it to a crue of his companions, who tooke it in Dudgion, that they should be put downe by a Peasant: but whersoeuer they met, they held a conuocation, and both consulted, and concluded all by a generall consent, to bend all their wits to bee possessers of this Farmers Young, and for the execution of this their vow, they haunted about the Inne where he lay, and dogged him into diuers places, both to Westminster hall, and other places, and yet could neuer light vpon it, he was so watchfull and smoakt them so narrowly, that all their trauell was in vaine: at last, one of them fled to a more cunning policie, and went and learned the mans name and where hee dwelt, and then he hyed him to the Counter and entred an action against him of trespasse, dammages two hundreth pounds: when he had thus done, he feed two Seriants, and carried them downe with him to the mans lodging, wishing them not to arrest him till he commanded them, well agreed they were, and downe to the Farmers lodging they came, where were a crue of Foysts, whom he had made priuie to the end of his practise, stood waiting, but he tooke no knowledge at all of them, but walked vp and down: the Farmer came out and went to Paules, the Cutpurse had stay, and would not yet suffer the Officers to meddle with him, till hee came in-

A pretty shift.

to

to the West end of Pauls Church-yard, and there he willed them to doe their Office, and they stepping to the Farmer arrested him, the Farmer amazed, being amongst his neighbors, asked the Serieant at whose sute he was troubled: At whose sute soeuer it be (said one of the Cutpurses that stood by) you are wrongd honest man, for he hath arrested you here in a place of priuiledge, where the Sheriffes nor Officers haue nothing to doe with you? and therefore, you are vnwise if you obey him: tush, sayes another Cutpurse, though the man were so simple of himselfe, yet shall he not offer the Church so much wrong, as by yeelding to the Mace, to imbolish Pauls libertie, and therefore I will take his part, and with that he drew his sword, an other toke the man and haled him away, the Officer he stucke hard to him and sayd he was his true prisoner, and cryed Clubbes: the Prentises arose, and there was a great hurly burly, for they took the Officers part, so that the poore Farmer was mightily turmoyld amongst them, and almost haled in peeces: whilest thus the strife was, one of the Foysts had taken his purse away, and was gone, and the Officer carried the man away to a Taueme, for he swore he knew no such man, nor any man that he was indebted to: as then they sate drinking of a quart of wine, the Foyst that had caused him to be arrested, sent a note by a Porter to the Officer that he should release the Farmer, for he had mistaken the man: which note the Officers shewed him, and bad him pay his fees and goe his wayes: the poore Country-man was content with that, and put his hand in his pocket to feele for his Purse, but there was none, which made his heart farre more cold then the Arrest did, and with that fetching a great sigh, hee said: Alas Masters, I am vndone: my Purse in this frap is taken out of my Pocket, and ten pounds in gold in it, besides white mony. Indeed, said the Sergeant, commonly in such brawles, the Cutpurses bee busie, and I feare the quarrell was made vpon purpose by the Pickpockets. Well (saies his neighbour) who shall smile at you now? the other day

One Varlet smokes another.

when I loſt my Purſe, you laught at mee? The Farmer brookt all, and ſate male-content, and borrowed money of his neighbours to pay the Sergeant; and had a learning (I beleeue) euer after, to braue the Cutpurſe.

How ſay you to this, Miſtreſſe Kate; was it not well done? What choiſe witted Wench of your faculty, or Shee Foyſt, hath euer done the like? Truſh Kate, if we begin once to apply our wits, all your inuentions are folly towards ours.

Kate. You ſay good, goodman Stephen, as though your ſubtilties were ſodaine as womens are, come but to the old Prouerbe, and I put you downe, 'Tis as hard to find a Hare without a Muſe, as a woman without a ſcuſe; and that wit that can deuiſe a cunning lye, can plot the intent of deepe villanies. I grant the fetch of this Foyſt was pretty, but nothing in reſpect of that we wantons can compaſſe, and therefore to quite your tale with another, heare what a mad wench of my profeſſion did relate to one of your faculty.

A pleaſant Tale how a Whore Conny-catcht a Foyſt.

A country Foyſt guls the City Foyſts.

THere came out of the Country a Foyſt, to try his experience, here in Weſtminſter hall, and ſtrooke a hand or two, but the Diuell a ſnap he would giue to our citizen Foyſts but wrought warily, and could not be fetcht off by no meanes, and yet it was knowne he had some twenty pounds about him, but hee plaited it ſo cunningly in his doublet, that it was ſure enough for finding. Although the city Foyſts laid all the plots they could, as well by diſcouering him to the Gaylors as otherwayes, yet hee was ſo politicke, ỹ they could not verſe vpon him by any meanes, which grieued them ſo, that one day at dinner, they held a counſaile amongſt themſelues how to coozen him, but in vaine, till at laſt a Wench that ſate by vndertooke it, ſo they would ſweare to let her haue all that he had: they confirmed it ſolemnly, and ſhe put it in practiſe thus: ſhe ſubtilly inſinuated her ſelfe into the Foiſts company, who ſeeing her a pretty

prety wench, began, after twice meeting, to ware familiar with her, and to question about a nights lodging; after a little nice louing and biding shee was content for her supper, and what else he would bestow vpon her, for shee held it scorne, she said to set a salary price on her body, the Foyst was glad of this, & yet he would not trust her, so that hee put no more but ten shillings in his pocket, but hee had aboue twenty pounds quilted in his Dowblet: Well, to bee short, supper time came, and thither comes my gentle Foyst, who making good cheere, was so eager of his game that hee would straight to bed by the leaue of Dame Bawd, who had her fee to, and there he lay till about midnight, where three or foure old Hacksters, whom she had prouided vpon purpose, came to the doore and rapt lustily. Who is there, saies the Bawd, looking out of the Window? Harry, say they, such a Iustice, (and named one about the Citty that is a mortall enemy to Cutpurses) who is now come to search your house for a Iesuite and other suspected persons. Alas sir, sayee she, I haue none here. Well, qd. they: Ope the doore. I will, sayes shee, with that she came into the Foystes Chamber, who heard all this, and was afraid it was some search for him, so that hee desired the Bawde to helpe him, that hee might not bee seene. Why then (quoth she) step into this Closet. He whipt in hastily, and neuer remembred his cloathes: she lockt him in safe, and then let in the crue of Rake-hels, who making as though they searcht euery Chamber, came at last into that where this Lemman lay, and asked her what she was: She, astrif she had been afraid, desired their worships to so be gon to her, she was a poore Country Maid come vp to the Tearme. And who is that, quoth they, that was in bed with you? None forsooth, saies shee, No, sayes one, that is a lye, here is the print of two; and besides, wheresoeuer the Fore is, there is his skinne, for this is his Doublet and Hose: Then down she falls vpon her knees, and sayes, indeede it was her Husband. Your Husband, quoth they, nay that cannot be (Mini on) for why then would you haue denyed him at the first?

The Wolfe eates the Fox

With-

With that, one of them turnd to the Bawd, and did question with her what he was, and where hee was: Truely sir, saies shee, they came to my house, and said they were man and wife; and for my part I knew them for no other, and he being afraid, is indeede (to confesse the troth) shut vp in the Closet. No doubt (if it please your Worship, sayes one take heed) I warrant you, hee is some notable Cutpurse or pickpocket, that is afraid to shew his face, come and open the Closet: and let vs looke on him: Nay sir, sayes she, not for to night: I beseech your worship carry no man out of my house, I will giue my word hee shall bee forth comming to morrow morning. Your word, Dame Bawd, saies one, tis not worth a straw. You Hustwife, that sayes yee are his wife, ye shall goe with vs: and for him, that we may be sure he may not start, Ile take his Doublet, Hose, and Cloake, and to morrow Ile send them to him by one of my men: were there a thousand pounds in them, there shall not bee a penny diminisht. The Whore kneeled downe on her knees, and fained to cry pittifully, and desired the Justice, (which was one of her companions) not to carry her to Prison. Yes hustwife, quoth he, your make and you shall not tarry together in one house, that you may make your tales all one and therefore bring her away: and after ye came Bawd, sir you lend him no other cloathes, for I will send his in the morning betimes, and come you with him to answere for lodging him. I will sir, sayes she: and so away goes the Wench and her companions laughing, and left the Bawd and the Foyst. As soone as the Bawd thought good, she vnlockt the Closet, and curst the time that euer they came in her house; now, quoth she, here will be a faire adoe, how will you answere for your selfe? I feare me I shall be in danger of the Cart. Well, quoth hee, to bee short, I would not for forty pounds come afore the Justice. Marry no more would I quoth she; let me shift, if you were conueyed hence, but I haue not a ragge of mans apparell in the house. Why, quoth hee, seeing it is early morning, lend me a blanket to put about

Cardes well packt, are as halfe the game won.

Worse feard then hurt.

bout me, and I will scape to a friends house of mine. Then leaue me a pawne, quoth the Bawd: Alas I haue none, saies he, but this Ring on my finger. Why that, quoth she, or tarry while the Iustice comes: so hee gaue it her, toke the Blanket and went his waies, whether I know not, but to some friends house of his. Thus was this wily Foyst, by the wit of a subtill wench, cunningly stript of all that he had, and turned to graſſe to get more fat.

Kate. How say you to this deuiſe Stephen, was it not excellent? What thinke you of a womans wit, if it can worke such wonders?

Steph. Mary, I thinke, my mother was wiſer then all the honeſt women of the Parſh beſides.

Kate. Why, then belike ſhe was of our faculty, and a Matrone of my profeſſion, nimble of her hands, quick of her tongue, and light of her tayle; I ſhould haue put in, Sir reuerence: but a foule word is good enough for a filthy knaue.

Steph. I am glad you are ſo pleaſant Kate, you were not ſo merry when you went to Dunſtable: but indeede I muſt néeds confeſſe, that women Foyſts, if they be carefull in their trades, are (though not ſo common) yet more dangerous then men foyſts: Women haue quick wits, as they haue ſhort héeles, and they can get with pleaſure what wee fiſh for with danger: but now giuing you the Bucklers at this weapon, let me haue a blow at you with another.

Kate. But before you induce any more Arguments, by your leaue in a little by talke. You know Stephen, that though you can Foiſt, Nip, Prig, Lift, Curbe, & vſe the Black Art, yet you cannot Croſbite without the helpe of a Woman: which Croſbiting now adayes, is growne to a maruelous profitable exerciſe; for ſome cowardly knaues that for feare of the Gallowes, leaue Nipping and Foyſting, become Croſbites, knowing there is no danger therein but a little puniſhment, at the moſt the Pillorie, and that is ſaued with a little Vnguentum Aureum as for example; [illegible] is now a reformed man, whatſoeuer he hath been in his youth, now

Croſbiting now moſt in vſe.

in his latter dayes he is growne a corrector of Vice; for whō soeuer he takes suspicious with his wife, I warrant you hee sets a sure fine on his head, though hee hath nothing for his mony but a bare kisse: and in this Art, we poore wenches are your surest props and stay. If you will not beleeue mee, aske poore A. B. in Turnemill streete, what a saucy Signior there is, whose purblinde eyes can scarcely discerne a Lowse from a Flea, and yet he hath such insight into the mysticall trade of Crosbiting, that hee can furnish his boord with a hundred pounds worth of Plate: I doubt the sand-eyde Asse will kicke like a Westerne Pugge, if I rubbe him on the gall; but tis no matter, if hee finds himselfe toucht and stirre, although hee boasts of the chiefe of the Cleargies fauour, yet Ile so set his name out, that the Boyes at Smithfield Barres shall chalke him on the back for a Crosbite. Tush, you men are Foppes in fetching Houres ouer the cokes: Harken to mee Stephen, Ile tell thee a wonder. There dwelt here sometimes a good ancient Matron, that had a fayre Wench to her Daughter, as young and tender as a morrow Masse Priests Lemman; her shee set vp to sale in her youth, and drew on sundry to be suters to her Daughter, some wooers, and some spaders; yet none married her, but of her Beauty they made profit, and inueagled all, till they had spent vpon her what they had, and then forsooth, shee and her young Pigion turned them out of doores like prodigall Children: She was acquainted with Dutch, French, Italian, and Spaniard, as well as English, and at last so often as the Pitcher goes to the Brooke, that it comes broken home, my fayre Daughter was hit on the Matter veine, and gotten with child, and the Mother to colour this matter, to saue her Daughters Marriage, begins to were a Cushion vnder her owne Kirtle, and to faine her selfe with child, but let her Daughter passe as though she aild nothing: when the fortie Weekes were come and my young Mistresse must nedes cry out, forsooth, this old B. had gotten huswiues answerable vnto her selfe; and so brought her Daughter to Bed, and let her goe vp

One with child with a Cushion.

and

and downe the house, and the old Crone lay in Childbed as though she had beene deliuered, and sayd, the Child was hers, and so saued her Daughters scape. Was not this a witty wonder M. Stephen, wrought by an old Witch, to haue a Child in her age, and make a young Whore seeme an honest Virgine? Tush, this is a little to the purpose, if I should recite all, how many she had cozoned vnder the pretence of marriage: well proze plaine Signioz See, you were not stiffe inough foz her, although it cost you many Crownes, and the losse of your seruice, Ile say no moze, perhaps she will amend her manners. Ah Stephen, how like you this geare? in Crosbiting we put you downe; foz God wot, it is little lokt to in and about London, and yet I will say to thee many a good Citizen is Crosbit in the yeare by odde Walkers abzoad.

Steph. I cannot deny, Kate, but you haue set downe strange Presidents of Womens preiudiciall wits; but yet though you be Crosbites, Foysts, and Nips, yet you are not good Lifts: which is a great helpe to your Faculty, to filch a Boult of Satten, oz Veluet.

Kate. Stay thee a word, I thought thou hadst spoken of I.P.C. his wife, Take heede, they bee parlous folkes, and greatly acquainted with Keepers and Jaylozs, therefoze meddle not you with them; foz I heard say, the Belman hath swozne in despight of the Brasill staffe, to tell such a foule Tale of him in his Second part, that it will cost him a dangerous Joynt.

Steph. Kate, Kate, let I. P. beware, foz had not an ill foztune falne to the Bel-man, he could take little harme.

Kate. Who is that, Stephen, D. W.

Steph. Nay, I will not name him.

Kate. Why then I prithie what misfoztune befell him?

St. Marry Kate, he was strangely washt alate by a French Barber, and had all the haire of his face most miraculously shauen of by the Sythe of Gods vengeance, insomuch that some said he had that he had not: but as hap was, howsoe-

ner his haire fell off, it stood him in some stead when ỹ brawle was alate: for if he had not cast of his beard, and so being vnknowne, it had cost him some knockes, but it fell out to the best.

Kate. The more hard fortune that hee had such ill hap, but hasty iourneyes breede dangerous sweates, & the Phisicians call it the Ale Peria, yet omitting all this, againe to where you left.

Steph. You haue almost brought mee out of my matter, but I was talking about the Lift, commending what a good quality it was, and how hurtfull it was, seeing we practise it in Mercers shops with Haberdashers of small-wares, Haberdashers of Hats and Caps, amongst Merchant Taylors for Hose and Doublets, and in such places getting much gaines by Lifting, when there is no good purchase abroad by Foysting.

The conditions of a Lift.

Kate. Suppose you are good at the Lift: who be more cunning then we women, in that we are more trusted? for they little suspect vs, and wee haue as close conueyance as you men, though you haue Cloakes, we haue skirts of Gownes, Handbaskets, the Crownes of our Hats, our Plackards, and for a neede, false Bags vnder our smockes, wherein we may conuey more closely then you.

Steph. I know not where to touch you, you are so witty in your answers, and haue so many starting holes, but let me bee pleasant with you a little: what say you to Prigging or Horsestealing? I hope you neuer had experience in that faculty.

Kate. Alas simple sot, yes; and more shift to shunne the Gallowes then you.

I will tell you wonders of this mad wench & her husband, in my black booke with both their names.

Steph. Why tis impossible.

Kate. In faith sir no, and for proofe, I will put you down with a story of a mad, merry, little, dapper, fine wench, who at Spilsby faire had three horse of her own, or another mans to sell: as she, her husband, and another good fellow, walked them vp and downe the Faire, the owner came and appre-

hended

hended them all, and clapt them in Prison, the Jaylor not keping them close Prisoners, but letting them lye all in a Chamber, by her wit shee instructed them in a formall tale, that shee saued all their liues thus: Being brought the next morrow after their apprehension, before the Justices they examined the men how they came by the Horses, and they confest they met her with them, but where shee had them, they knew not: then was my pretty Peat brought in, who being a handsome Trull, blusht as if shee had beene full of grace; and being demanded where she had the Horses: made this answere: May it please your Worships, this man my Husband, playing the Unthrift, as many more haue done, was absent from mée for a quarter of a yéare, which grieued mee not a little, insomuch that desirous to see him, and hauing intelligence hee would bee at Spilsby Faire, I went thither euen for pure loue of him, on foote, and being within some ten miles off the towne, I waxed passing weary, and rested me often and grew very faint: at last there came riding by me a Seruingman in a blew coat, with three Horses tide at one anothers taile, which he led as I gest, to sell at the Faire: the Seruingman seing mée so tyred, tooke pitty on me, and asked me if I would ride on one of his empty horses, for his owne would not beare double. I thankt him hartily, and at the next hill got vp, and rode till wee came to a towne within three miles of Spilsby, where the Seruingman alighted at a house, and bade me ride on afore, and hee would presently ouertake me. Well, forward I rode halfe a mile, & looking behind me, could see no body; so being alone, my heart began to rise, and I to thinke on my husband: as I had rid a little further, looking downe alane, I saw two lusty men comming vp, as if they were weary; and marking them earnestly, I saw one of them was my husband, which made my heart as light as before it was sad: so staying for them, after a little vnkind greeting betwixt vs (for I chid him for his vnthriftinesse) he asked me where I had the horse: and I told him how courteously the Seruingman had vsed me: why

then sayes he, Stay for him, nay quoth I, lets ride on, and get you two vpon the empty horses, for he will ouertake vs ere we come at the town, he rides on a stout, lusty yong gelding: so forward we went, and lookt often behinde vs, but our Seruingman came not. At last we comming to Spilsby, alighted and broke our fast, and tyed our horses at the doore, that if he past by, seeing them, he might call in; after wee had broke our fast, thinking he had gone some other way, we went into the horse faire, and there walkt our horses vp and downe to meet with the Seruingman, not for the intent to sell them. Now may it please your worships, whether he had stolne the Horses from this honest man or no, I know not; but alas, simply I brought them to the Horse faire, to let him that deliuered me them, haue them againe: for I hope your Worships do imagine if I had stole them as it is suspected, I would neuer haue brought them into so publike a place to sell: yet if law be any way dangerous for the foolish deede because I know not the Seruingman, it is, I must bide the punishment, and as guiltlesse as any here: and making a low curtsie, shee ended. The Iustice holding vp his hand, and wondring at the womans wit that had cleared her husband and his friend, and saued her selfe without compasse of the Law. How like you this, Stephen? cannot we wenches Prigge well?

Steph. I thinke Kate, I shall be faine to giue you the Bucklars.

Kate. Alas, good Stephen, thou art no Logitian, thou canst not reason for thy selfe, nor hast no witty argument to draw me to an exigent: and therefore giue me leaue at large to reason for this Supper, remember the subiect of our disputation is the positiue question, whether Whores or Theeues are most preiudiciall to the Common wealth. Alas, you poore Theeues doe onely steale and purloyne from men, and the harme you doe, is to imbollish mens goods, and bring them to pouerty: this is the onely end of mens theauery, and the greatest preiudice that growes from robbing and filching: so much doe we by our theft, and more by our lechery:

ry: for what is the end of whoredom, but consuming of goods and beggery: besides: perpetuall infamy? Wee bring young youthes to ruine and vtter destruction. I pray you Stephen, whether had a Merchants sonne, having wealthy parents, better light vpon a Whore, then a Cut-purse, the one onely taking his money, the other bringing him to vtter confusion? For if the Foyst light vpon him, or the Conny-catcher, he loseth at the most some hundreth pounds: but if he fall into the company of a Whore, she flatters him, shee inueagles him, shee bewitcheth him, that he spareth neither goods nor lands to content her, that is only in loue with his coyne: If he be married, he forsakes his wife, leaues his children, despiseth his friends, onely to satisfie his lust with the loue of a base Whore, who when he hath spent all vpon her, and he brought to beggery, beateth him out like the Prodigall child; and for a finall reward, brings him, if to the fairest end, to begge: if to the second, to the Gallowes: or at the last and worst to the Pox, or as preiudiciall diseases. I pray you Stephen, when any of you come to your confession at Tyborne, what is your last Sermon that you make? That you were brought to that wicked and shamefull end, by following of Harlots: for to that end do you steale to maintaine whores, and to content their badde humors. Oh Stephen! enter your owne thoughts, and thinke what the faire words of a wanton will doe, what the smiles of a strumpet will driue a man to act, into what ieopardie a man will thrust himselfe for her that he loues, although for his sweete villany hee be brought to a loathsome leprosie.

The end of keeping a whores company.

Tush, Stephen, they say the Pox came from Naples, some from Spaine, some from France: but whersoeuer it first grew, it is so surely now rooted in England, that by S. Syth it may better be called Morbus Anglicus; then Gallicus, and I hope you will grant all these French fauours grew from Whores: besides, in my high loning, or rather creeping, I meane where men and women doe rob together, there alwayes the woman is most bloody: for she alwaies

bigeth

Women out-stripne men in villany.

vrgeth vnto death: and though the men would onely satisfie themselues with the parties coyne, yet shee endeth her theft in blood, murdering parties so direly as she is malicious. I hope, gentle Stephen, you cannot contradict these reasons, they be so openly manifestly probable. For mine owne part, I hope you do not imagine but I haue had some friends, besides poore George my Husband: Alas, hee knowes it, and is content like an honest simple Suffragan, to bee conuiall with a number of other good companions, and I haue made many a good man, I meane a man that hath a household, for the loue of me to goe home and beate his poore wife, when for recompence I mock him for the money he spent, and hee had nothing for his pence: but the waste beleauings of others beastly labours.

Examples.

Stephen, Stephen, If Concubines could inueagle Salomon, if Dalilah could betray Sampson, then wonder not if we, more nice in our wickednesse then a thousand Dalilahs, can seduce poore yong Nouices to their vtter destructions. Search the Gayles there you shall heare complaints of Whoores: Looke into the Spittles and Hospitalls: there you shall see men diseased of the French Mabies, giuing instruction to others that are said to beware of whoores: be an Auditor or eare-witnesse of the death of any Thiefe, and his last Testament is, Take heede of a Whoore.

I dare scarce speake of Bride-well, because my shoulders tremble at the name of it, I haue so often deserued it: yet looke but in there, and you shall heare poore men with their hands in their Pige-on holes, crie: Oh fie vpon Whoores, when Fowler giues them the terible lash. Examine Beggers that lye lame by the high way, and they say, they came to that misery by Whoores. Some thred-bare Citizens, that from Merchants, and other good Trades, grow to be base Informers, and Knights of the Post, cry out when they dine with Duke Humfery; O what wickednesse comes from Whoores! Prentises that runne from their Masters, cry out vpon Whoores. Tush Stephen, what enormities proceed more

more in the Common wealth, then from whoredome. But sith it is almost supper-time, and mirth is the friend to digestion, I meane a little to be pleasant: I pray you how many bad profits againe growes from Whores? Bride-well would haue very few Tenants, the Hospitall would want Patients, the Surgeons much worke, the Apothecaries would haue Surphaling water, and Potato roots lye dead on their hands, the Painters could not dispatch and make away their Vermillion, if tallow faced whores vsed it not for their cheekes. What should I say more Stephen? The Sub-vrbes should haue a great misse of vs, and Shoreditch would complaine to Dame Anne a Cleare, if we of the sisterhood should not vphold her iollity. Who is that Stephen, comes in to heare our talke? Oh tis the Boy Kate, that tells vs Supper is ready. Why then Stephen what say you to me? haue not I prooued that in foysting & nipping wee excell you, that there is none so great inconuenience in the Commonwealth, as growes from Whores: first for the corrupting of youth, infecting of age, for breeding of brawles, whereof ensues murther, insomuch that the ruine of many men comes from vs, and the fall of many youths of good hope, if they were not seduced by vs, do proclaime at Tyborne that wee be the meanes of their misery: you men Theeues touch the body and wealth, but we ruine the soule, and endanger that which is more precious then the worlds treasure: you make worke only for the Gallowes, we both for the Gallowes and the Diuell, I and for the Surgeon too, that some liue like lothsome Lazers, and dye with the French Marbles. Whereupon I conclude that I haue wonne the supper.

Steph. I confesse it Kate, for thou hast told me such wonderous villanies, as I thought neuer could haue beene in women, I meane of your profession: who are Crocodiles when you weep, Basiliskes when you smile, Serpents when you deuise, and the diuels chiefe brokers, to bring the world to destruction. And so Kate lets sit downe to our meate and be merry.

THus Cunterey-men, you haue heard the diſputation betweene theſe two cozning companions, wherein I haue ſhak't out the notable villanie of whozes, although miſtreſſe Kate this god Dratreſſe, hath ſwozn to weere a long Hamborough knife to ſtab me, and all the crue haue protected my death: and to proue they meant good earneſt, they beleagred me being at ſupper: there were ſome foureteene oz fiftéene of them met, and thought to haue made that the fatall night of my ouerthzow, but that the courteous Citizens and apprentices toke my part, and ſo two oz thzée of them were carried to the Counter, although a Gentleman in my company was ſoze harte. I cannot deny but they began to waſte away about London, and Tyburn hath eaten vp many of them, and I will plague them to the extremity, let them doe what they dare with their bil-bow blades, I feare them not: and to giue them their laſt adue, loke ſhozthy Countrimen, foz a Pamphlet againſt them, called The creeping Law, of petty theeues, that rob about the Sub vzbs. The limiting law diſcourſing the ozders of ſuch as follow Iudges in their circuits, and go about from faire to faire. The Iugging law, wherein, I will ſet out the diſozders at Nine-holes, and Rifling, how they are only foz the benefit of the cutpurſes. The ſtripping law, wherein I will lay open the lewd abuſes of ſundzy Gaylozs in England. Beſide, you ſhall ſée there what houſes there be about the Sub-vzbs and Townes end, that are receiuers of Cutpurſes ſtolne goods, Lifts and ſuch like. And laſtly, loke foz the bedzoll oz Catalogue of all the names of the Foyſts, Nyps, Lifts and Priggers, in e about London and although ſome ſay I dare not do it, yet I will ſhozthy ſet it abzoch, and whoſoeuer I name oz touch, if he think himſelfe grieued, I will anſwere him.

New Lawes

The

The conuerſion of an Engliſh Curtezan.

SIth to diſcouer my parentage, would double the griefe of my liuing Parents, and renue in them the memory of great amiſſe, and that my vntoward fall, would be a diſhonour to the houſe from whence I came. Sith to manifeſt the place of my birth, would be a blemiſh (though my beaſtly life ſo badly miſled) to the Shire where I was borne: Sith to diſcouer my name, might be holden a blot in my kindreds brow, to haue a ſinew in their ſtocke of ſo litle grace, I will conceale my Parents, Kin and Countrey, and ſhrowd my name with ſilence, leſt enuie might taunt others for my wantonneſſe. Know therefore I was borne about threeſcore miles from London of honeſt and welthy Parents, who had many children, but I their only daughter, and therfore the iewell wherein they moſt delighted, and more, the youngeſt of all, and therefore the more fauoured, for being gotten in the waining of my Parents age, they doted on me aboue the reſt, and ſo ſet their hearts the more on fire: I was the faireſt of all, and yet not more beautiful then I was witty: in ſomuch, that being a pretty Parrat, I had ſuch quaint conceits, and wittie words in my mouth, that the neighbors ſaid I was too ſone wiſe, to be long old. Would to God either the Prouerbe had bin authenticall, or their ſayings Prophecies: then had I, by death in my nonage, buried many blemiſhes that my riper yéares brought me to: For the extreame loue of my Parents, was the very efficient cauſe of my follies, reſembling herein the nature of the Ape, that euer killeth that young one which he loueth moſt, with embracing it too feruently. So my father and mother, but the moſt of all, although he too much, ſo cockered me vp in my wantonneſſe, that my wit grew to the worſt, and I warped vpwards with the ill wœdes. Whatſoeuer I did were it neuer ſo bad, might not be found fault withall, my Father would ſmile at it, and ſay, twas but the tricke of a childe,

A Harlots repentance.

and my mother allowed of my vnhappy parts, alluding to this prophane and old Prouerbe, An vntoward Girle, makes A good woman.

But now I find in sparing the rod, they hated the Child, that ouerkind Fathers makes vnruly Daughters. Had they bent the wand while it had bene greene, it would haue bene pliant; but I, ill growne in my yeares, am almost remedilesse. The Hawke that is most perfit for the flight will, seldome proue a Hagard, and children that are vertuously nurtured in youth, will be honestly natured in age: fie vpon such as say, Young Saints, old Diuels: it is (no doubt) a diuelish and damnable saying: for what is not bent in the Cradle, will hardly be bowed in the Saddle. My selfe am an instance, who after I grew to bee fiue yeares old, was set to Schoole, where I profited so much, that I writ and read exceeding well, plaid vpon the Virginals, Lute, and Citron, and could sing Prick-song at the first sight: insomuch as by that time I was twelue yeares old, I was holden for the most faire and best qualitied yong girle in all that country, but with this, bewailed of my wel-wishers, in that my Parents suffered me to be so wanton.

But they so tenderly affected me, and were so blinded with my excellent quallities, that they had no insight into my ensuing follies. For I growing to be 13. yeeres old, casting the yoke of liberty to bee lose on mine owne neck, began with the wanton Heyfer, to aime at mine owne will, and to measure content by the fwæteneſſe of mine owne thoughts, insomuch that pride creeping on, I begunne to pranke my selfe with the proudest, and to hold it in disdaine, that any in the Parish should exceede me in brauery. As my apparell was costly, so I grew to be lincentious, and to delight to be lookt on, so that I haunted and frequented al feasts and weddings, and other places of merry meetings, where, as I was gazed on of many, so I spared no glances to suruey all with a curious eye-sauour, I obserued Ouids rule right:

Spectatum veniunt, veniunt spectentur vt ipsa.

I went to see and be seene, and deck my selfe in the highest degree of brauery, holding it a glory when I was waited on with many eies, to make censure of my birth. Beside, I was an ordinary dauncer, and grew in that quality so famous, that I was noted as the chiefest thereat in all the Countrey: yea, and to sooth me vp in these follies, my Parents tooke a pride in my dancing, which afterward prooued my ouerthrow and their heart breaking.

Thus as an vnbridled Colt, I carelesly led forth my youth, and wantonly spent the flower of my yeares, holding such Maydens as were modest, fooles, and such as were not as wilfully wanton as my selfe, Puppies, ill brought vp, and without manners. Growing on in yeeres (as time nor time tarrieth for no man. I began to ware passion proud, & to think her not worthy to liue, that was not a little in loue; that as diuers yong men beganne to fauour me for my beauty, so I beganne to censure of some of them partially, and to delight in the multitude of many wooers, being ready to fall from the tree before I was come to the perfection of a blossome, which an Vncle of mine seeing, who was my mothers brother, as carefull of my welfare, as nie to me in kin, finding fit opportunity to talke with me, gaue me this wholesome exhortation

A watch word to wanton Maydens.

CDusin, I see the fairest Hawke hath oftentimes the sickest Feathers; that the hottest day, hath the most sharpe thunders, the brightest sun, the most sodaine showre, and the youngest Virgins, the most dangerous fortunes; I speake as a kinsman, and with as a friend, the blossome of a Maidens youth (such as your selfe) hath attending vpon it many frosts to nip it, and many cares to consume it, so that if it bee not carefully lookt vnto, it will perish before it come to any perfection.

A Virgins honour consisteth not only in the gifts of Nature, as to be faire and beautifull, though they bee fauours

that grace Maidens much: for as they bee glistring, so they be momentany, ready to be worne with euery winters blast, and parched with euery Summers sunne: there is no face so faire, but the least Moale, the slenderest scarre, the smalest brunt of sickneſſe, will quickly blemish.

Beauty (Cousin) as it flourisheth in youth, so fadeth in age, it is but a folly that fedeth mans eye, a painting that Nature lends for a time, and men allow on for a while, insomuch that such as onely aime at your faire lookes, tye but their loues to a an apprentiſhip of beauty; which broken either with cares, misfortune, or yeares, their deſtinies are at liberty, and they begin to loath you, and like of others.

For shee that is loked on by many, cannot choose but be harely spoken of by some: for report hath a blister on her tongue, and maidens actions are narrowly measured. Therfore would not the ancient Romans suffer their daughters to goe any further, then their mothers lookes guided them. And therefore Diana is painted with a Tortuſe vnder her feet, meaning that a maid should not bee a stragler; but like the snaile, carry her house on her head, and kepe at home at her worke, so to kep her name without blemish, and her vertues from the slander of enuy.

Cousin, I speake this generally, which if you apply particularly to your selfe, you shal find in time my words were well said.

I gaue him slender thankes, but with such a frumpe, that he perceiued how light I made of his counsaile: which hee perceiuing, shak't his head, and with teares in his eyes, departed. But I, whom wanton deſires had drawne in delight, still presuming in my former follies, and gaue my selfe either to gad abroad, or elſe at home to reade diſſolute Pamphlets, which bred in mee many ill-affected wiſhes, so that I gaue leaue to loue and luſt to enter into the center of my heart, where they harboured, till they wrought my finall and fatall preiudice.

Thus leading my life looſely, and being soothed vp with the

the applause of my too kinde and loving parents, I had many of every degree that made love vnto me, as well for my beauty, as for the hope of wealth that my father would bestow vpon me: sundry suters I had, and allowed of all, though I particularly granted loue to none, yelding them friendly fauours, as being proud I had more wooers then any maid in the Parish beside: Amongst the rest there was a wealthy Farmer that wished me well, a man of some forty yeares of age, one too worthy for one of so little worth as my selfe, and him my father, mother, and other friends, would haue had me match my selfe with all: but I had the reines of liberty too long in mine owne hands, refused him; and would not bee ruled by their perswasions; and though my mother with teares intreated me to consider of mine owne estate, and how well I sped if I wedded with him, yet carelesly I despised her counsell, and flatly made answere, that I would none of him: which though it pinched my Parents at the quicke, yet rather then they would displease mee, they left me in mine owne liberty to loue. Many there were beside him, mens sonnes of no meane worth, that were wooers vnto mee, but in vaine, either my fortune or destiny drove me to a worse end, for I refused them all, and with the Bee, refusing to light on the sweetest flowres all day, nestled at night in a Cowsheard.

It fortuned, that as many sought to win me, so amongst the rest, there was an old companion that dwelt with a Gentleman hard by, a fellow of small reputation, and of no living, neither had he any excellent qualities, but thrumming on the Gittron: but of pleasant disposition hee was, and could gawll out many quaint and ribaldrous ligs, & Songs, and so was fauoured of the foolish sort for his foppery. This shifting companion, sutable to my selfe in vanity, would oft-times be iesting with me, and I so long dallying with him, that I began deepely (oh let me blush at this confession) to fall in loue with him, and so construed all his actions, that I consented to mine owne ouerthrow: for as smoake will hardly

bee

be concealed, so loue will not be long smothered, but will bewray her owne secrets, which was manifest in mee, who in my sporting with him so bewrayed my affection, that he spying I fauoured him, began to strike when the yron was hot, and to take opportunity by the forehead, and one day finding me in a merry vaine, beganne to question with mee of loue: which, although at the first I tenderly denyed him, yet at last I granted; so that not only I agreed to plight him my faith, but that night meeting to haue further talke, I lasciuiously consented, that he cropt the flowre of my Virginity. When thus I was spoyled, by such a base companion, I gaue my selfe to content his humour, and to satisfie the lust of mine owne wanton desire. Oh here let me breath, and with teares bewaile the beginning of my miseries, and to exclaime against the folly of my Parents, who by too much cauouring me in my vanity in my tender youth, laid the first plot of my ensuing repentance: Had they with due correction chastised my wantonnesse, and suppressed my foolish will, with their graue aduice, they had made me more vertuous, and themselues lesse sorrowfull. A fathers frowne is a bridle to the child, and a mothers checke is a stay to a stubborne daughter. Oh had my parents in ouerloking me, not hated me, I had not at this time cause to complaine.

But leauing this digression, againe to the lewdenesse of mine owne life, who now hauing lost the glory of my youth, and suffred such a base slaue to possesse it, which many men of worth had desired to enioy, I waxed bold in sinne, and grew shamelesse, insomuch, hee could not desire so much as I did grant him: whereupon seeing he durst not reueale it to my father to demaund me in marriage, he resolued to carry me away secretly, and therefore wisht me to prouide for my selfe, and to furnish me euery way both with mony & appareil hoping as he said, that after we were departed, and my Father saw we were married, and that no meanes was to amend it, he would giue his free consent, and vse vs kindly, and deale with vs as liberally, as if we had matcht with his good will.

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I that was apt to any ill, agreed to this, and so wrought the matter, that hée caried mée awy into a strange place, and then vsing me awhile as his wife, when our mony began to wax low, he resolued secretly to go into the Country where my father dwelt, to heare not only how my father tooke my departure, but what hope we had of his ensuing fauour: although I was loth to be left in a strange place, yet I was willing to heare from my frends, whom no doubt conceiued much hart-sorow for my vnhappy fortunes: so that I parted with a few teares, and enioined him to make all the haste he might to returne. He being gone, as the Eagles alwaies resort where the carrion is, so the braue being spred abroad of my beauty, and that at such an Inne lay such a faire yonge Gentle-woman? there resorted thither many braue young Gentlemen, and cutting companyons, that trickled with lust, aymed at the possession of my fauour, and by sundry meanes sought to haue a sight of me, which I easily granted to all, as a woman that counted it a glory to bé wondred at by many mens eyes: in somuch, that comming amongst them, I set their hearts more and more on fire, that there arose diuers brawles who should be most in my company.

Being thus haunted by such a troope of lusty ruffiers, I began to find mine owne folly, that had placed my first affection so lowly, and and therefore began as deeply to loath him that was departed, as earst I liked him when hé was present, vowing in my selfe, though he had the spoile of my virginity, yet neuer after should he triumph in the possession of my fauour: and therefore began I to affection these new come ghests, and one aboue the rest, who was a braue young Gentleman, and no lesse addicted vnto me, then I deuoted vnto him: for daily hé courted mée with amorous Sonnets, and curious penn'd letters, and sent mée Iewels and all that I might grace him with the name of my seruant: I returned him as louing lines at last, and so contented his lusting desire, that secretly and vnknowne to all the rest I made him sundry nights my bed-fellow: where I so

betwicht him with swet words, that the man began deply to dote vpon me, insomuch that selling some portion of land that he had, he put it into ready mony, and prouided House and all things conuenient, carried me secretly away, almost as farre as the Bath. This was my second choice, and my second shame: thus I went forward in wickednesse, and delighted in change, hauing left my old loue, to loke after some other mate meete fit for my purpose: now he toke my departure when he returned, I little cared: for how I had my content, a Gentleman, young, lusty, and indued with good qualities, and one that loued me more tenderly then himselfe. Thus liued this new entertained friend and I together vnmaried, yet as man and wife for a while, so louingly as was to his content and my credit: but as the Tyger, though for a while she hide her clawes, yet at last she will reueale her cruelty: and as the Agnus Castus leafe when it lookes most dry, is then most full of moisture, so Womens wantonnesse is not qualified by their warines, nor doth their chastines for a moneth warrant their chastity for euer, which I proued true: for my supposed husband being euery way a man of worth, could not so cunningly hide himselfe in the Country, though a stranger, but that he fell in acquaintance with many braue Gentlemen, whom he brought home to his lodging, not onely to honour them with his liberall curtisie: but also to see me, being proud if any man of worth applauded my beauty. Alas poore Gentleman, too much bewitcht by the willinesse of a Woman had he framed my heart to be an harbour for euery new desire, or mine eye a suter to euery face, he would not haue bene so fond as to haue brought his companions into my company, but rather would haue mewed me vp as a Hen, to haue kept that seuerall to himselfe by force, which he could not retaine by kindnesse: but the honest-minded Novice, little suspected my change, although I (God wot) placed my delight in nothing more then the desire of new choyce, which fell out thus. Amongst the rest of the Gentlemen that kept him compa-

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my, there was one that was his moſt familiar, and hee repoſed more truſt and confidence in him then in all the reſt: this Gentleman began to be deepely inamored of me, and ſhewed by many ſignes, which I eaſily perceiued; and I, whoſe eare was pliant to every ſweete word, and who ſo allowed of all that were beautifull, affecton him no leſſe: ſo that loue preuailed aboue friendſhip, hee brake the matter with mee, and made not many ſuites in vaine, before hee had obtained his purpoſe: for he had what he wiſht, and I had what contented me.

I will not confeſſe that any of the reſt had ſome ſeldome fauors, but this Gentleman was my ſecond ſelfe, and I loued him more for the time at the heele, then the other at the hart: ſo that though the other youth bare the charges, and was ſir pay for all, yet this new friend was he that was maſter of my affections: which kindneſſe betwixt vs was ſo vnwiſely cloked, that in ſhort time it was manifeſt to all our familiars, which made my ſuppoſed huſband to ſigh, and others to ſmile; but he that was hit with the horne, was pincht at the heart; yet ſo extreme was the affection he bare mee, that he had rather conceale his griefe, then any way make me diſcontent, ſo that he ſmothered his ſorrow with patience, and brokt the iniury with ſilence, til our loues grew ſo broad before, ỹ it was a wonder to the world: whereupon one day at dinner, I being very pleaſant with his choſen friend, and my choſe louer. I know not how, but either by fortune, or it may bee, ſome ſet match, there was by a Gentleman there preſent, a queſtion popt in about womens paſſions, and their mutability in affection, ſo that the controuerſie was defended, pro & contra, with arguments, whether a woman might haue a ſecond friend or no: at laſt it was concluded, that Loue and Lordſhip brookes no fellowſhip, and therefore none ſo baſe minded to beare a Riuall. Hereupon aroſe a queſtion about friends, that were put in truſt, how it was a high point of treaſon for one to betray another, eſpecially in loue, inſomuch that one Gentleman at the Boord proteſted by a ſolemne oath,

that if any friend of his, made prime and fauoured with the sight of his Mistresse whom hee loued, whether it were his wife, or no, should secretly seeke to incroach into his roome, and offer him that dishonour to partake his loue, hee would not vse any other reuenge, but at the next greeting stab him with his poinado, though hee were condemned to death for the action. All this fitted for the humour of my supposed husband, and stuck both me and my friend into a quandarie: but I scornfully iested at it, when as my husband, taking the ball before it came to the ground, began to make a long discourse, what faithlesse friends they were that would faile in loue: especially, where a resolued trust of the party beloued was committed vnto them: and hereupon, to make the matter more ceremonius, and to quip my folly, and to taunt the baseness of my friends mind, that so hee might with courtesie both warne vs of our wantonesse, and reclaime vs from ill, he promised to tell a pleasant story, performed as hee said, not long since in England, and it was to this effect.

A pleasant discourse how a wife wanton by her Husbands gentle warning, became to be a modest Matron.

THere was a Gentleman (to giue him his due an Esquire heere in England, that was married to a young Gentlewoman, faire and of a modest behauiour, vertuous in her lookes, howsoeuer she was in her thoughts, and one that euery way with her dutifull endeauour, and outward appearance of honesty, did breed her husbands content, insomuch that the Gentleman so dimply affected her, as he counted all those houres ill spent which hee past not away in her company, besotting so himselfe in the beauty of his wife, that his onely care was to haue her euery way delighted. Liuing thus pleasantly together, hee had one speciall friend amongst the rest, whom he so dearely affected, as he vnfolded all his secrets in his bosome, and what passion hee had in his mind, that either ioyed him, or perplexed him, he reuealed

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led vnto his friend, and directed his actions according to the sequell of his counsels, so that they were two bodies and one soule. This Gentleman, for all the inward fauour shewne him by his faithfull friend, could not so withstand the force of fancy, but hee grew enamoured of his friends wife whom hee courted with many sweete words, and faire promises, charmes that are able to inchaunt almost the chastest eares, and so subtilly couched his arguments, discouered such loue in his eyes, and such sorrow in his lookes, that dispaire seemed to sit in his face, and swore that if shee granted not him, the end of a louers sighs, then would presently his heart as a Tragicke Sacrifice to the sight of his cruell Mistresse. The Gentlewoman waxed pittifull as women are kind-hearted, and are loath Gentlemen should dye for loue, after a few excuses, let him dub her husband knight of the forked order, and so to satisfie his humor, made forfeit of her owne honor. Thus these two louers continued for a great space in such pleasures as vnchast wantons count their felicity, hauing continually fit opportunity to exercise their wicked purpose, sith the Gentleman himselfe did giue them free libertie to loue, neither suspecting his wife, nor his friend: at last, as such trayterous abuses will burst forth, it fell out, that a mayd who had beene an old seruant in the house, began to grow suspicious, that there was too much familarity betweene her Mistris, and her Masters friend, and vpon this, watcht them diuers times so narrowly, that at last she found them more priuate then either agreed with her masters honor, or her owne honestie: and thereupon reuealed it one day vnto her Master. He, little credulous of the light behauiour of his wife, blamed the maid, and bid her take heede, least she sought to blemish her vertues with slander, whom he loued more tenderly then his owne life: the maid replyed, that shee spake not of enuy to him, but of meere loue shee bare vnto him, and the rather that hee might shadow such a fault in time, and by some meanes preuent it, lest if others should note it as well as she, his wiues good name, and his friends

should be called in question. At these wise words spoken by so base a Drudge as his Maid, the gentleman waxed astonished, and listned to her discourse, wishing her to discouer how shee knew, or was so prime to ỹ folly of her mistresse, or by what meanes he might haue assured proofe of it: she told him, that to her, her owne eyes were witnesses: for she saw them vnlawfully together, and please it you sir, quoth shee, to faine your selfe to goe from home, and then in the Back-house to keepe you secret, I will let you see as much as I haue manifested vnto you. Vpon this her Master agreed, and warned his Maid not so much as to make it knowne to any of her fellowes within a day or two after, the Gentleman said hee would goe a hunting, and so rose very early, and causing his men to couple vp his hounds, left his wife a bed, and went abroad, as soone as he was gone a mile from the house, hee commanded his men to ride afore, and to start the Hare, and follow the chase, and hee would come faire and softly after: they obeying their masters charge, went their wayes, and hee returned by a back way to his house, and went secretly to the place where his Maid and hee had appointed. In the meane time the Mistresse thinking her husband safe with his hounds, sent for her friend to her bed-chamber, by a trusty seruant of hers, in whom she assured ỹ he was a secret Pander in such affaires: and the Gentleman was not slack to come, but making all the haste he could, came and went into the Chamber, asking for the Master of the House very familiarly: the old Maid noting all this, as soone as shee knew them together, went and called her Master, and carried him vp by a secret paire of staires to her mistresse chamber doore; where, peeping in a place that the maid before had made for the purpose, hee saw more then he lookt for, and so much as pincht him at the very heart, causing him to accuse his wife for a strumpet, and his friend for a Traytor: yet for all this, valuing his owne honour more then their dishonesty, thinking if he should make an vproare, hee should but aime at his owne discredite, and cause himselfe to bee a laughing

game

game to his enemies, he concealed his sorrow with silence and taking the maid apart, charged her to keepe all secret, whatsoeuer she had seene, euen as she esteemed of her owne life, for if she did bewray it to any, he himselfe would with his sword make an end of her dayes: and with that, putting his hand in his sleeue, gaue the poore maid sixe Angels to buy her a new gown: the wench glad of this gift, woore solemely to tread it vnder foot, and sith it pleased him to conceale it, neuer to reueale it so long as she liued: vpon this they parted, she to her drudgery, and he to the field to his man where, after he had kild the Hare, he returned home, & finding his friend in the garden, that in his absence had been grafting hornes in the chimnies, he entertained him with his wonted familiaritie, and shewed no bad countenance to his wife, but dissembled all his thoughts to the full. As soone as dinner was done and that he was gotten solitary by himselfe, he began to determine of reuenge, but not as euery man would haue don how to haue brought his wife to shame, and her Loue to confusion, but he busied his braine how he might reserue his honor inuiolate, reclaime his wife, and keepe his friend: meditating a long time how he might bring all this to passe, at last a humor fell into his head, how cunningly to compasse all this: and therfore he went and got him certaine Slips, which are counterfeit peeces of mony, being brasse, and couered ouer with siluer, which the common people call slips: hauing furnished himselfe with these, he put them in his purse and at night went to bed as he was wont to do, yet not vsing the kinde familiarity that he accustomed, notwithstanding he abstained not from the vse of her body, but knew his wife as aforetimes and euery time he commited the act with her, he laid the next morning in the window, a Slip, where he was sure she might find it, and so many times as it pleased him to bee carnally pleasant with his wife, so many Slips he still laid downe vpon her cuhinet. This he vsed for the space of a fortnight, till at last his wife finding euery day a Slip, or sometime more or lesse, wondred how they came there, and

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examining her waiting maids, none of them could tell her any thing touching them: whereupon shee thought to question with her Husband about it, but being out of remembrance, the next morning as she lay dallying in bed, it came into her minde, and she asked her husband if he laid those slips on her Cushinet, that she of late found there, hauing neuer seene any before. I marry did I, quoth hee, and haue laid them there vpon speciall reason, and it is this.

Euer since I was married to thée, I haue deemed thée honest: and therefore vsed and honored thée as my wife, parting coequall fauours betwixt vs as true louers: but alate finding the contrary, and with these eyes séeing thee play the whore with my friend, in whom I did repose all my trust, I sought not, as many would haue done, to heue reuenged in bloud, but for the safety of mine own honor, which otherwise would haue béene blemished by thy dishonesty, I haue beene silent, & haue neither wronged my quondam friend, nor abused thée, but still do hold bed with thée: the world shall not suspect any thing, and to quench the desire of lust I do vse thy body, but not so louingly as I would a wife, but carelesly as I would vse the body of a false Harlot or Strumpet, and therefore euen as a Whore, so I giue thée hire, which is for every time a slip, a counterfeit coyne, which is good enough for a slippery wanton, that will wrong her husband that loued her so tenderly, and thus will I vse thée for the safety of mine owne honor, till I haue assured proofe that thou becõmest honest, and thus with teares in his eyes, and his heart ready to burst with sighs, he was silent: when his wife stricken with remorse of conscience, leaping out of her bed in her smocke, humbly confessing all craued pardon, promising if hee should pardon this offence which was new begun in her, she would become a new reformed woman, and neuer after (so much as in thought) giue him any occasion of suspition or iealousie: the patient husband not willing to vrge his wife, tooke her at her word, and told her that when hee found her so reclaymed, hee would as afore he had done, vse her louingly and as

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his wife, but till hee was so perswaded of her honesty, hee would pay her still slips for his pleasure, charging her not to reueale any thing to his friend, or to make it knowne to him that he was priuie to their loues. Thus the debate ended, I guesse, in some kind grating, and the Gentleman went abroad to see his pastures, leauing his wife in bedde full of sorrow, and almost renting her heart asunder with sighs. As soon as he walked abroad, the Gentleman his friend came to the house, and asked for the good Man: the Pander that was priuy to all their practises, said, that his Master was gone abroad to see his Pastures, but his Mistresse was in bed; why then, sayes hee, I will goe and raise her vp; so comming into the Chamber, and kissing her, meaning (as he was wont) to haue vsed his accustomed dalliance, shee desired him to abstaine, with broken sighs, and her eyes full of teares: he wondring what should make her thus discontent; asking her what was the cause of her sorrow, protesting with a solemne oath, that if any had done her iniury, hee would reuenge it, were it with hazzard of his life. Shee then told him, scarce being able to speake for waping, that shee had a suite to moue him in, which if he granted vnto her, shee would hold him in loue and affection, without change, next her husband for euer: he promised to do whatsoeuer it were: then saies she, sweare vpon a Bible you will do it without exception: with that he toke a Bible that lay in the window, and swore, that whatsoeuer she requested him to do, were it to the losse of his life, he would, without exception performe it. Then she holding downe her head and blushing, began thus: I neede not, quoth shee, make manifest, how grossely and grieuously you and I haue both offended God, and wronged the honest gentleman my husband, and your friend; hee putting a speciall trust in vs both, and assuring such earnest affiance in your vnfained friendship, that he euen committed mee his wife, his loue, his second life, into your bosome: this loue haue I requited with inconstancy, in playing the Harlot: that faith that hee reposed in you, haue you returned with treachery:

and falshood, in abusing mine honesty and his honour. Now, a remorse of conscience toucheth me for my sins, that I heartily repent, and vow euer hereafter to liue only to my Husband: and therefore my suite is to you, that from henceforth you shall neuer so much as motion any dishonest question vnto me, nor seeke any vnlawfull pleasure or conuersing at my hands: this is my suite, and hereunto I haue sworne you, which oath if you obserue as a faithfull Gentleman, I will conceale from my husband what is past, and rest in honest sort your faithfull friend for euer? at this, she burst a fresh into teares, and vttered such sighes, that he thought for very griefe her heart would haue cleaued asunder. The gentleman astonied at this strange Metamorphosis of his Mistris, sate a good while in a maze, and at last taking her by the hand, made this reply. So God helpe mee, faire Swéting, I am glad of this motion, and wondrous ioifull that God hath put such honest thoughts into your mind, and hath made you the meanes to reclaime me from my folly: I feele no lesse remorse then you doe in wronging so honest a friend as your husband, but this is the frailenesse of man: and therefore to make amends, I protest anew, neuer hereafter so much as in thought, to motion you of dishonesty, onely I craue you be silent: she promised that, and so they ended, and for that time they parted. At none the Gentleman came home, and therefully saluted his wife, and asked if dinner were ready, and sent for his friend vsing him wonderfully familiarly, giuing him no occasion of mistrust, and so pleasantly they past away the day together: At night when his wife and he went to bed, she told him all, what had past betwene her and his friend, and how she had bound him with an oath, and that he voluntarily of himselfe swore as much, being hartily sorrie that he had so deeply offended so kind a friend. The Gentleman commended her wit, and found her afterward a reclaimed woman, she liuing so honestly that she neuer gaue him any occasion of mistrust. Thus the wise Gentleman reclaimed with silence a wanton wife, & retained an assured friend.

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At this pleasant tale all the boord was at a mutiny, and they said, the Gentleman did passing wisely that wrought so cunningly for the safety of his owne honour, but exclaimed against such a friend as would to his friend offer such villany, all condemning her that wold bee false to so loving a husband. Thus they did diuersly descant and past away dinner; but this tale wrought little effect in me: for as one past grace, I delighted in change: but the Gentleman that was his Familiar, and my Paramour, was so touched, that neuer after hee would touch me dishonestly, but reclaimed himselfe, abstained from me, and became true to his friend. I wondring, that according to his wonted custome, hee did not take my company; he and I being one day in the Chamber alone, and he in his dumps, I began to dally with him, and to aske him why hee was so strange, and vsed not his accustomed fauors to me: he solemnly made answere, that though hee had played the foole in setling his fancy vpon anothers mans wife, and in wronging his friend, yet his conscience was now touched with remorse, and euer since hee heard the taile afore rehearsed, hee had vowed in himselfe neuer to doe my husband the like wrong againe. My Husband, quoth I: he is none of mine, he hath brought me here from my friends, and keepes me here vnmarried, and therfore am I as free for you as for him: and thus began to grow clamorous, because I was debard of my lust. The Gentleman seing me shameless, wisht me to be silent, and said; although you be but his friend, yet he holds you as deare as his wife, and therefore I will not abuse him, neither would I wish you to bee familiar with any other, seing you haue a friend that loues you so tenderly: much good counsell he gaue me, but all in vaine, for I scorned it, and began to hate him, and resolued both to bee rid of him, & my supposed husband, for falling in with another familiar of my husbands, I so inueagled him with sweete words, that I caused him to make a pace of mony to steale me away, and so carry me to London, where I had not liued long with him, but he seing my light behauiour, left mee to the wide world, to shift for my selfe.

I now being brought to London, and left here at random, was not such a house done while my friend stayed with me, but that I had visited some houses in London, that could harbour as honest a woman as my selfe; when as therefore I was left to my selfe, I removed my lodging, and gate me into one of those houses of good Hospitality, whereunto persons resort, commonly called a Drugging-house, or, to bee plaine, a Whore house, where I gaue my selfe to entertaine all companions, sitting or standing at the doore like a staule, to allure or draw in wanton Passengers, refusing none that would with his Purse purchase me to be his, to satisfie the disordinate desire of his filthy lust: now I began not to respect Personage, good qualities, or the gracious fauour of the man, when eye had no respect of person, for the oldest Lecher was as welcome as the yongest Louer, so hee brought meate in his mouth. Thus to the griefe of my friends, hazard of my soule, and consuming of my body, I spent a yeare or two, in this base or bad kind of life, subiect to the whistle of euery desperate Ruffian, till on a time there resorted to our house a Cloathier, a proper yong man, who by fortune comming first to drinke, espying mee, asked mee if I would drinke with him: there needed no great entreaty, for as then I wanted company, and so clapt mee downe by him, and beganne very pleasantly to welcome him: the man being of himselfe modest and honest, noted my personage, and inditially reasoned of my strumpet like behauiour, and inwardly (as after he reported vnto mee) grieued that so feule properties were hidden in so good a proportion, and that such rare wit and excellent beauty was blemisht with whoredomes base deformity, in so much that hee began to thinke well of me, and to wish that I were as honest as I was beautifull. Againe, see how God wrought for my conuersion: since I gaue my selfe to my loose kind of life, I neuer liked any so well as him, in so much that I began to iudge of euery part, and me thought he was the properest man that euer I saw, thus wee sate both amorous of other, I lasciuiously

ouſly and he honeſtly; at laſt he queſtioned with mee what country woman I was, and why being ſo proper a woman I would beſeeme to dwell or lye in a baſe Ale-houſe, eſpecially in one that had a bad name: I warrant you I wāted no knauiſh reply to fit him, for I told him the houſe was as honeſt as his mothers, marry if there were in it a good wench or two, that would pleaſure their friends at a neede, I gueſſe by his Noſe what Porridge he loued, and that he hated none ſuch: well, ſeeing me in that voice, hee ſaid little, but ſhaked his head, paid for the beare and went his way, onely taking his leaue of me with a kiſſe, which mee thought was the ſweeteſt that euer was giuen mee, as ſoone as hee was gone, I began to thinke what a handſome man he was, & wiſht that he would come and take a nights lodging with mee, ſitting in a dumps to thinke of the quaintneſſe of his perſonage, till other Companions came in and ſhaked mee out of that melancholly, but as ſoone againe as I was ſecret to my ſelfe, hee came into my remembrance, paſſing ouer this a day or two, this Cloathier came againe to our houſe, whoſe ſight cheered mee vp, for that ſpying him out of a Caſement, I ranne downe the ſtaires and met him at the doore, and heartily welcomed him, and aſked him if he would drinke, I come for that purpoſe, ſaies he, but I will drinke no more below but in a Chamber, marry ſir, quoth I, you ſhall, & ſo brought him into the faireſt Roome, in our ſitting there together drinking, at laſt the Clothier fell to kiſſing and other dalliance, wherein he found me not coy, at laſt told mee that he would willingly haue his pleaſure of mee, but the Roome was to light ſom, for of all things in the world he could not in ſuch actions away with a light Chamber: I conſented vnto him, and brought him into a roome more dark: but ſtil he ſaid it was to light. then I carried him into a further Chamber, where drawing a Curtaine before the Windowe, and cloſing the curtaines of the bed, I asked him, ſmiling, if that were cloſe enough? No, ſweet Ione, ſaies he, ỹ Curtaine is not broad enough for the Windowe, ſome watching eye may eſpy vs,

my heart misdoubts, and my credit is my life: Loue, if thou hast a closer roome then this, bring me to it: why then, quoth I follow me, and with that I brought him into a backe loft, where stood a little bed, onely appointed to lodge suspicious persons, so darke, that at noone dayes it was impossible for any man to see his owne hands: how now sir, quoth I, is not this darke enough? Hee sitting him downe on the bed side, fetcht a deepe sigh, and said, indifferent, so, so; but there is a glimpse of light in at the Tiles, some body may by fortune see vs: in faith no qd. I, none but God: God, sayes hee! why, can God see vs here? Good sir, quoth I, why I hope you are not so simple, but you know, Gods eyes are so cleere and penetrating that they can pierce through walls of Brasse. And alas qd. he, sweete loue, if God see vs, shall wee not bee more ashamed to do such a filthy act before Him, then before men? I am sure thou art not so shamelesse but thou wouldst blush to haue the meanest commoner in London see thee in the action of thy filthy lust, and dost thou not shame more to haue God, the Maker of all things, see thee, who reuengeth sinne with death; he whose eyes are clearer then the Sunne, who is the searcher of the heart, and holdeth vengeance in his hands to punish sinners. Oh let vs tremble that wee but once durst haue such wanton communication in the hearing of his diuine Maiesty, who pronounceth damnation for such as giue themselues ouer to adultery. It is not possible, saith the Lord for any whoremaster, or lasciuious wanton, to enter into the Kingdome of God, for such sinnes whole Cities haue sunke, kingdomes haue beene destroyed, and though God suffer such wicked liuers to escape for a while, yet at length hee payeth home, in this world, with beggery, shame, diseases, infamy; and in the other life, perpetuall damnation: weigh but the inconuenience that growes through thy lose life, thou art hated of all that are good, despised of the vertuous, and only well thought of, of Reprobates, Rascals, Ruffians, and such as the world hates, subiect to their lust, and gaining thy liuing at the hands of euery diseased Leacher. O what a miserable

rable trade of life is thine, that liueſt of the vomit of ſin, in hunting after maladies: but ſuppoſe, while thou art young, thou art fauored of thy companions, when thou waxeſt old, and that thy beauty is faded, then thou ſhalt be lothed and deſpiſed, euen of them that profeſſe moſt loue vnto thee: then good ſiſter call to minde the baſeneſſe of thy life, the hainous outrage of thy ſin, that God doth puniſh it with the rigor of his iuſtice. Oh thou art made beautifull, faire, and well formed: and wilt thou then by thy filthy luſt make thy body, which if thou be honeſt, is the Temple of God, the habitation of the diuell? Conſider this, and call to God for mercy, and amend thy life? leaue this houſe, and I will become thy faithfull friend in all honeſty, and vſe thee as mine owne ſiſter. At this, ſuch a remorſe of conſcience, ſuch a fearefull terror of my ſin ſtrook into my mind, that I kneeled downe at his feet, and with teares beſought him that he would helpe me out of that miſery, for his exhortation had cauſed in me a lothing of my wicked life and I would not only become a reformed woman; but hold him as deare as my father that gaue me life, whereupon he kiſt me with teares, and ſo we went downe together, where we had further communication, and preſently he prouided me an other loging, where I not only liued my ſelfe honeſtly, but alſo was ſo penitent euery day in teares for my former folly, that he take me to his wife? and how I haue liued ſince and lothed filthy luſt, I referre my ſelfe to the Maieſty of God, who knoweth the ſecrets of all hearts.

Thus Country-men I haue publiſht the conuerſion of an Engliſh Curtezan, which if any way it be profitable, either to forwarne youth, or withdraw bad perſons to goodneſſe, I haue the whole end of my deſire? only crauing euery father would bring vp his children with carefull nurture, and euery young woman reſpect the honour of her Virginitie.

FINIS.